

3. On a Collection of Mammals from Siam made by  
Mr. T. H. Lyle. By J. LEWIS BONHOTE<sup>1</sup>.

[Received February 2, 1900.]

(Plate XVIII.)

The following is a list of a collection of Mammals made by Mr. T. H. Lyle, British Consul at Nan, in Siam. The list, as will be seen, contains the names of 20 species, one of which is new to science. The value of a collection in these days, however, is not dependent on the number of new species, but what is required is a series of specimens carefully labelled and measured in the flesh. In this respect the collection under notice is invaluable, and great praise is due to the energetic Consul, who has voluntarily collected with such care, and has generously presented the results to the National Museum.

Among the objects of interest is a large series of the very variable *Sciurus finlaysoni*, which apparently varies irrespective of the ordinary causes, such as locality, altitude &c., which usually induce variation. The specimens of *Helictis* and *Rhizomys* are also of great interest, and will be of much assistance to the correct understanding of these groups. Nan, the centre of the locality from which these specimens come, lies on the head-waters of the Menam River in lat. 18° 40' N., long. 101° 30' E., and the other localities mentioned are near there.

1. CYNOPTERUS SPHINX Vahl.

Nan.

*a-d.* ♂. Nov. 1897. Mostly young.

*e-g.* ♀. Nov. 1897. Mostly young.

2. PIPISTRELLUS ABRAMUS (Temm.).

Nan.

*a.* ♂ ad. sk. Aug. 1897.

*b-f.* ♀ ad. sk. Aug. 1897.

3. SCOTOPHILUS KUHLI Leach.

Nan.

*a.* ♂ ad. sk. 8th July, 1897.

*b.* ♂ ad. sk. 22nd Aug., 1897.

*c.* ♂ ad. sk. 3rd Sept., 1897.

*d-e.* ♀ ad. sk. 3rd Sept., 1897.

These specimens are all nearly uniform in colour, being of a sooty-brown above and yellowish below.

<sup>1</sup> Communicated by Mr. OLDFIELD THOMAS, F.Z.S.

4. *SCOTOPHILUS CASTANEUS* Horsf.

Lakon, Chingmai.

a. ♂ ad. sk. 25th April, 1898.

b. ♀ ad. sk. 10th March, 1898.

This species is smaller than the true *S. kuhli*, and is of a uniform chestnut all over, showing no tendency to become lighter below. The Museum also possesses three specimens of it collected by Mr. Stanley Flower in the Malay Peninsula.

*Dimensions* :—

♂. Head and body 68 mm.; tail 41; hind foot 8; ear 12.

♀. Head and body 70 mm.; tail 43; hind foot 9; ear 13.

The average length of the forearm of the 5 specimens in the Museum is 50·7 mm., the lengths ranging from 49–52; the average length of *S. kuhli* is 60·5, showing a variation from 58–63.

5. *TUPAIA BELANGERI* (Wagner).

Nan.

a. ♂ ad. sk. 10th April, 1897.

b. ♂ ad. sk. 5th July, 1897.

c, d. ♂ ad. sk. 3rd &amp; 4th Aug., 1897.

e–h. ♀ ad. sk. 4th, 8th, &amp; 19th Aug., 1897.

Chingmai.

i. ♂ ad. sk. 24th Feb., 1898.

k, l. ♂ ad. sk. 22nd March, 1898.

m. ♀ ad. sk. 25th Feb., 1898.

These are true *T. belangeri* and not *T. ferruginea*.

6. *HELICHTIS PERSONATA* (Geoffr.).

Nan. a–c. ♀ ad. sk. Nov. 1897.

These specimens form a valuable and much needed addition to the series of skins of this genus already in the Museum.

7. *PETAURISTA LYLEI*, sp. n. (Plate XVIII.)

General colour above hoary, each hair varying from dark brown to rufous at its base, succeeded by a band of white and a black tip. Colour of the hair rather more rufous on the head. Tail slightly longer than head and body, and black throughout its length but lighter at its base. Ears covered with bright red short hairs over their anterior half and long black hairs on the remainder; these latter hairs spreading on the sides of the neck to form a dark patch behind the ear. Feet and edge of the parachute deep black; shoulders, thighs, and upper portion of membrane strongly grizzled with rufous. Underparts rich chestnut, brighter on the membrane. Hairs with a tendency to a white tip, especially towards the median line; underpart of chin, whiskers, and tip of nose dark brown.

The skull shows no marked differences from that of the other allied species except in its larger size. It is rather rounder and deeper; the nasal bones, which are widened anteriorly, extend

backwards beyond the premaxillæ, and the pterygoids are large and prominent.

*Dimensions* of type (in the flesh):—

Head and body 464 mm.; tail 577; hind foot 85; ear 50.

*Skull*—greatest length 78·3 mm.; basilar length from henselion 64; zygomatic breadth 53·5; length of nasals 25·5; width of nasals anteriorly 16; width of nasals posteriorly 7.

*Hab.* Siam.

*Type.* B. M. 98.10.5.41. ♂ ad. Doi Sritepe, Chingmai, 10th April, 1898.

I have great pleasure in naming this fine species after Mr. Lyle, who has collected so carefully and thoroughly in the midst of his other duties, and has generously presented the results of his labour to the Museum.

There is no risk of confusing this species with any of the pre-existing ones. It is allied to the group of *PP. oral*, *phillipensis*, and *cineraceus*, but its larger size and red underparts distinguish it at a glance.

The skull of the Burmese *P. cineraceus*, Blyth, nearly equals that of the present species in length, but is not so deep and round, conforming in general type with that of the Indian specimens. Its nearest ally is *P. yunnanensis* Anderson, from which it is distinguished by its hoary back and uniform chestnut underparts, besides other minor differences.

Mr. Lyle got a second specimen, also an adult male and from the same locality, which closely resembles the type. The bases of the hairs of the back are not so rufous, and below there are more white tips.

#### 8. SCIUROPTERUS PHAYREI Blyth.

Nan.

*a-b.* ♂ ♀ ad. sk. 22nd July, 1897.

*c.* ♀ ad. sk. 16th Sept. 1897.

All three specimens are slightly larger than the average, but do not differ in any other respect.

#### 9. RATUFA GIGANTEA (Maccl.).

Nan. *a.* ♂ ad. sk. 10th April, 1898.

#### 10. SCIURUS FINLAYSONI (Horsf.).

Sokotai. *a, b.* ♂ ♂ ad. sk. 17th & 20th Jan., 1898.

Bau Mu, Siang Hai. *c, d.* ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 8th Feb., 1898.

Memoh, Lakon, Phiné Road. *e, f.* ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 24th Aug., 1898.

Phitsamloke on Menam R. *g-k.* ♂ ♂, ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 6th June, 1898.

Pichit. *l, m.* ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 7th June, 1898.

Between Pichit and Pakuampo. *n-p.* ♂, ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 9th June, 1898.

Ban Bu Nok, Menam R. *q.* ♂ ad. sk. 9th June, 1898.

Muang Pron, above Antong. *r, s.* ♂ ♀ ad. sk. 12th June, 1898.

This fine series of specimens fully bears out Mr. Thomas's remarks (P. Z. S. 1898, p. 245) that, so far as our present knowledge is concerned, the variations met with in this species apparently follow none of the ordinary laws which are usually supposed to govern such cases.

11. *SCIURUS RUFIGENIS* Blanf.

Doi Sritepe, Chingmai. *a.* ♂ ad. sk. 29th March, 1898.

12. *SCIURUS CANICEPS* Gray.

Nan. *a, b.* ♂ ♀ ad. sk. 27th July, 1897.

Chingmai. *c-f.* ♂ ♂, ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 10th June, 1898.

13. *SCIURUS ATRODORSALIS* Gray.

Nan. *a-f.* 3 ♂, 3 ♀. March 1898.

There is hardly any sign of the black back in these specimens, which were all taken in March.

14. *SCIURUS MACCLELLANDI BARBEI* Blyth.

Nan.

*a.* ♂ ad. sk. 23rd July, 1897.

*b, c.* ♂ ♀ ad. sk. 1st & 10th September, 1897.

15. *FUNAMBULUS BERDMOREI* (Blyth).

Sokotai, Nam Phi. *a.* ♂ ad. sk. 17th Jan., 1898.

Nam Phi, near Nan. *b.* ♂ imm. sk. 23rd May, 1898.

Maang Prom, above Antong. *c, d.* ♂ ♀ ad. sk. 12th June, 1898.

16. *MUS MUSCULUS* Linn.

Nan, Siam. *a-c.* ♂ ♀ ♀ ad. sk. 13th & 27th Aug. & 8th Sept., 1897.

These specimens are light in colour and almost white underneath.

17. *MUS RATTUS* L.

Nan.

*a-d.* Ad. sk. July 1897.

*e-l.* Imm. sk. Aug., Sept., & Nov., 1897.

All the specimens in this collection belong to that form of *Mus rattus* which is found throughout Southern India and Ceylon. The general colour is light fawn, and the long black hairs are numerous and distinct. There are practically no spines, and the tail is longer than the head and body. They do not agree with the types of *MM. flavescens*, *rufescens*, *brunneusculus*, or *nitidus*, but in shape and colour most nearly approach the true *Mus rattus*, under which name I have therefore placed them.

